

21 October 1953

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Visit of Rabbi Kalmanowitz

1. On 30 September 1953 Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, President and Dean of Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute, wrote Mr. Dulles concerning the fact that an alleged German war criminal, Karl Eichmann, had turned up in the Middle East in the company of the Grand Mufti. The Rabbi alleged that Eichmann had been responsible for the slaying of some 200,000 Jews during the war and is on the war criminal list. He requested the DCI's assistance in bringing Eichmann to justice. The Rabbi enclosed copies of similar letters which he had written to the President on 20 July and 23 July 1953, and a brief reply from Parker Hart, Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs of the Department of State.

2. On 28 September Mr. A. A. Berle wrote Mr. Dulles requesting that we take appropriate steps to locate Eichmann and eventually either immobilize him or bring him to trial. On 12 October Mr. Dulles replied that he would look into the matter to see if there was anything that could be done.

3. On 20 October the office of Senator H. Alexander Smith (R., N. J.) called to state that Rabbi Kalmanowitz was in town and wished an appointment with Mr. Dulles, and an appointment to see the Rabbi was made with Mr. Pforzheimer, at which Col. Fuller, of the DCI's office, was present. The Rabbi was accompanied by an old associate, Mr. Nelson B. Lasson, of 6110 Biltmore Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.

4. The Rabbi set forth his story at length, indicating that he had also written to Senators Ives, Lehman, Magnuson and Humphrey, as well as Mr. Bernard Baruch. We explained to him that as an intelligence organization there was little that we could do other than make note of the information regarding Eichmann's presence in the Middle East and possibly confirm it for our own use and satisfaction, but that CIA was not in a position to apprehend him for trial or make representations to foreign governments.

5. We pointed out to the Rabbi that the war crimes jurisdiction was now in the hands of the German government rather than the HICOG mechanism and that under the circumstances the German government could probably try Eichmann for murder.

✓ However, we suggested that if the Rabbi wished to approach the German government on this matter, it should be done through the Department of State and not direct. He thereupon requested that an appointment with an appropriate member of the Department of State be arranged for him, and Mr. Pforzheimer called Mr. Brown, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Affairs, who was preparing the reply to Senator Magnuson on the Kalmanowitz matter. Mr. Brown made arrangements for the Rabbi to see Mr. Allen Raymond, Assistant Legal Advisor of the Department of State, to discuss the matter further with him.

✓ 6. The Rabbi expressed himself as being disappointed that he had received no reply to his letter to the DCI, but was grateful to have this interview. Mr. Lasson, who understands these matters somewhat better, was quite cooperative.

Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc (20 Oct. 53)

cc - Chief, NE/DDP ✓

AD/OO

Col. Fuller